

REMARKS

There is no indication that the prior art of record in parent application, now U.S. Patent No. 6 686 020, has officially been made of record in this application.

MPEP §609(i)(A) indicates that prior art documents which have been considered by the Patent Office in a parent application will be considered in a divisional application and that a listing of the information need not be submitted. Applicant respectfully requests a statement confirming that the documents cited in the parent application have been considered.

Referencing the Office Action, there is no indication that the originally filed formal drawings have been approved. A Form PTO-948 indicating approval of the formal drawings is respectfully requested.

The title and abstract have been amended to emphasize that the claimed invention is directed to an extrusion molding system. Approval of the amended title and abstract is respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claims 4 and 5 under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by Takizawa, U.S. Patent No. 5 512 234 has been considered.

Takizawa discloses a method and apparatus for manufacturing surface fasteners, such as hook and loop fasteners. Column 5, lines 27-31 of Takizawa explains that a substrate sheet is formed as a surface fastener having two faces.

Figure 1 of Takizawa shows forming both hooks and loops on one face of the fastener. Figure 2 shows forming loops on one face of the fastener. Figure 3 shows forming hooks on one face and loops on an opposing face of the fastener.

In Figure 1 of Takizawa, molten resin is extruded in a predetermined width and engages the surface of a die wheel having hook-member-forming cavities 5. A loop-forming wheel 3 downstream from the die wheel 2 operates on the molten resin

to provide loop-forming filaments. The fastener is then cut by apparatus 13 in desired lengths.

Applicant's claimed invention is directed to an extrusion molding system for forming a weatherstrip for a vehicle as illustrated in Applicant's Figures 4-6. The molding system includes an extruder 11 that outputs a slightly foamed solid rubber portion. The foamed rubber portion embeds a core bar 4 therein. As illustrated in Applicant's Figure 5, the foamed solid rubber portion and the core bar 4 are moved along a path that includes a prickly gear 13. The prickly gear 13 forms tiny holes 7 in the rubber portion. The embedded core bar then enters a vulcanizing furnace 15. The vulcanizing furnace vulcanizes the slightly foamed solid rubber portion to form a weatherstrip including an embedded core. Optionally, a coating unit 16 coats and seals a base of the slightly foamed solid rubber portion with a thermoplastic elastomer or resin. Thus, Applicant's molding system forms an entirely different type of product than Takizawa.

The Office Action states that the intended use of the extrusion molding system is given little patentable weight. However, Applicant's independent Claim 4 now clearly recites an extrusion molding system including different elements than the elements disclosed in Takizawa. For example, Claim 4 now recites "a vulcanizing furnace for vulcanizing the U-shaped trim while holes enable discharge of gas evolved inside the slightly foamed solid rubber portion". Takizawa discloses a heating unit 11 located adjacent the second roller 3 for heating an adhesive agent applying roller 12 to secure loops to a surface of the fastener. Thus, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Takizawa of a vulcanizing furnace, much less a furnace for receiving and vulcanizing a slightly foamed solid rubber portion.

Claim 5 has been rewritten to depend from Claim 4. Claim 5 further recites "a coating unit for sealing the tiny holes with a coating of a thermoplastic elastomer or resin". It is unclear what element in Takizawa comprises a coating unit. As

discussed above, the loop-forming wheel 3 glues loops onto the surface fastener. Thus Applicant believes there is no disclosure in Takizawa for providing a coating on the surface of the fastener.

For the above reasons, Claims 4 and 5 are believed allowable over Takizawa.

Added Claims 6-14 are believed to distinguish Takizawa.

Independent Claim 6 recites "a vulcanizing furnace for receiving and vulcanizing the slightly foamed solid rubber portion". As discussed above, this feature is not believed present in Takizawa.

Dependent Claim 7 recites "a coating unit for coating and sealing the holes in the face of the slightly foamed solid rubber portion". As discussed above, Takizawa is not believed to include a coating unit.

Dependent Claim 8 recites that the "prickly gear comprises a rotatable wheel including a plurality of spaced radially outwardly projecting elongate elements, each said elongate element having a radially outwardly projecting tip". This feature is not believed present in Takizawa. Takizawa discloses hooked shaped cavities 5 that do not have a radially outwardly projecting tip.

Applicant's independent Claim 9 recites "means for providing a core bar". This feature clearly is not present in Takizawa, which does not include any type of bar.

Claim 9 further recites "an extruder having a mouth piece, said extruder arranged to output a slightly foamed solid rubber portion so that the core bar is embedded therein". Takizawa does not disclose or suggest an extruder outputting a rubber portion to embed any element, much less a core bar.

Claim 9 further recites "a vulcanizing furnace for receiving and vulcanizing the slightly foamed solid rubber portion". As discussed above, Takizawa does not disclose or suggest any type of furnace, much less a vulcanizing furnace.

Applicant's Claim 10 recites "a coating unit" which is believed distinguishable over Takizawa for the reasons discussed above.

Applicant's Claims 13 and 14 recite that the "prickly gear comprises a rotatable wheel including a plurality of spaced radially outwardly projecting elongate elements, each said elongate element having a radially outwardly projecting tip for forming the holes". As discussed above, this structure is not believed present in Takizawa.

For the above reasons, Claims 6-14 are believed allowable over the applied prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application and allowance of Claims 4-14 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Encl: Marked-up replacement Abstract
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